Port Operations and Safety Discussion Agreement
FMC Agreement No. 201233

Joint Policy Statement on Terminal Weighing Approach to VGM for U.S. Exports

The members of the Port Operations and Safety Discussion Agreement have agreed on the following policy statement regarding steps to be taken for VGM compliance by using the "Terminal Weighing Approach."

1. Terminals/port are to confirm that they have scales and processes that meet Coast Guard requirements for terminals providing VGM.

2. Containers would be weighed on certified terminal scales at these ports/terminals. Tractor/chassis/fuel weight would be backed out by formula. Port/terminal will then provide VGM equivalent directly to vessel planners. U.S. Coast Guard has confirmed this as an acceptable equivalent procedure for VGM in the U.S.

3. Port/terminal schedules and carrier tariffs would specify that in such U.S. ports/terminals, shipper authorizes terminal weighing as its VGM submission. (There may be other specific provisions for VGM in port marine terminal operator Schedules or carrier tariffs.) Shippers wishing to submit their own formal VGM at such ports/terminals may still do so by arrangement with carrier.

4. The Terminal Weighing Approach will be recognized in the OCEMA Best Practice and tariff filing as an additional accepted method of submitting VGM for ports or marine terminals meeting the above criteria. These ports and marine terminals would be identified on the OCEMA website.

Port Parties to the Agreement
The Georgia Ports Authority
The Port of Houston Authority
The Massachusetts Port Authority
The North Carolina State Ports Authority
The South Carolina Ports Authority
The Virginia Port Authority
and Virginia International Terminals, LLC

OCEMA Parties to the Agreement
American President Lines
Atlantic Container Line
CMA CGM
China Shipping Group
Cosco
Evergreen
Hamburg-Sud
Hapag-Lloyd
Hyundai Merchant Marine
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha
Maersk Line
Mediterranean Shipping Company
Mitsui O.S.K. Lines
Nippon Yisen Kaisha Line
Orient Overseas Container Line
United Arab Shipping Company
Wan Hai Lines
Yang Ming Marine Transport
Zim Integrated Shipping Services